

Post-Visit Report for AGATE FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT Mammal Inventory, Bat Inventory – August 2004

Bat surveys were conducted at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument the nights of 5-7 August 2004. Weather was again problematic, with nightly storms and winds continuing after the storms had passed. Surveyors were Dr. Cheryl Schmidt and Ms. Shauna Marquardt.

Mist Net Effort

Mist nets were set over the main stem of the Niobrara proximal to the bridge along the hiking trail south of the Visitor Center. The side pond that is north of the main stem, just south of the housing area was completely dry, so no nets were set there this year. One Western small-footed bat (*Myotis ciliolabrum*) was captured in the net at the bridge.

A volunteer at the park indicated that she had observed a mummified bat at one of the excavation sites earlier in the summer. While she thought the bat was a pipistrelle, based on her description we believe the bat was actually a Western small-footed bat.

Acoustic Surveys

Acoustic surveys were conducted at the bridge, close to where the nets were set. These files await statistical analysis and assignment to species.

Future Work

Statistical analysis of the acoustic recordings will be conducted this fall to assign calls to species where possible. The results of these analyses will be included in the Final Report for the Mammal Inventory.